

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10
ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 DOE-15 SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11
/163 W

-----076159 221820Z /64

P 221756Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3419
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 12791

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD, PORG
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT: MEMBERSHIP

REF: GENEVA 12478 (NOTAL), GENEVA 12572 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FISHER MET WITH GARCIA ROBLES AT LATTER'S REQUEST AUGUST 22 TO DISCUSS CD MEMBERSHIP. GARCIA ROBLES SAID, AS AGENZ OF MOJSOV, HE STRIVING TO ACHIEVE AGREED SLATE BY END CCD. SAID GENERAL AGREEMENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REACHED ON FIVE COUNTRIES (IN WHICH HE INCLUDED CUBA) AND SUGGESTED THAT FINAL SLATE INCLUDE THREE MORE. FISHER SAID US PREFERRED FIVE AND EXPRESSED OBJECTIONS TO CUBA AND PREFERENCE FOR A NATO COUNTRY. AT LUNCH SAME DAY WITH HESSEL (FRANCE) AND ASHE (UK), HESSEL INDICATED OBJECTION TO FOUR-POWER CONSULTATION BECAUSE IT IMPLIED FRENCH DECISION WHICH NOT YET MADE, BUT LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF BROADER BASED CONFERENCE NOT IN PARIS. ALSO INDICATED FRANCE DOES NOT OBJECT TO CUBA. END SUMMARY.

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2. AT LATTER'S REQUEST, FISHER (US) MET WITH GARCIA ROBLES (MEXICO) FOR CONSULTATIONS AUGUST 22 A.M. ON QUESTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO CD. GARCIA ROBLES SAID HE WAS ACTING ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT MOJSOV (UNGA) TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A CONSENSUS ON NEW MEMBERS, STATING THAT THERE SHOULD BE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON EIGHT NEW MEMBERS, BUT

FIRST AGREEMENT ON FIVE SPECIFIC NEW MEMBERS, THEN ON REMAINING THREE TO MAKE UP THE EIGHT. AS TO THE FIVE ON WHICH HE FELT THERE MIGHT ALREADY BE A CONSENSUS, HE MENTIONED AUSTRALIA, ALGERIA, CUBA, SRI LANKA, AND VENEZUELA. LATER IN CONVERSATION HE STATED THAT HE THOUGHT THE ADDITIONAL THREE SHOULD INCLUDE ONE FROM ASIA, MENTIONING INDONESIA; ONE FROM BLACK AFRICA, MENTIONING KENYA, BUT ACCEPTING OTHER POSSIBILITIES; AND ONE FROM WESTERN EUROPE. GARCIA ROBLES STATED THAT HE HOPED THE LIST WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE CCD, BUT STATED THAT IF HE COULD NOT COMPLETE THE LIST BY THE END OF THE WEEK, HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT MOJSOV COME HERE FOR THE LAST WEEK OF THE CCD TO CONTINUE THE CONSULTATIONS.

3. FISHER REPLIED THE POSITION OF US WAS THAT CD SHOULD BE AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY FIVE, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD THERE MIGHT HAVE TO BE SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THIS SUBJECT. AFTER HAVING SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO CONSULTATIONS, HE STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE THE NEGOTIATOR ON THIS SUBJECT FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING UNDERSTANDINGS ON LOCATION OF CENTER OF GRAVITY OF CONSULTATIONS DURING DISCUSSIONS LEADING UP TO PARA 120 SSOD FINAL REPORT, HE NEVERTHELESS COULD MAKE TWO COMMENTS ON THE LIST OF MEMBERS SUGGESTED BY GARCIA ROBLES: FIRST, CUBA GAVE US TROUBLE AND, FOR A LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDATE, US STRONGLY PREFERRED VENEZUELA. SECOND, HE THOUGHT US WOULD INSIST CONFIDENTIAL

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ON NATO CANDIDATE IN THE FIVE AGREED NEW MEMBERS.

4. GARCIA ROBLES REPLIED CUBA NOT PUT FORWARD AS LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDATE, BUT AS FRIEND OF THE SOVIETS, AND INDICATED THAT ISSRAELYAN (USSR) HAD INDICATED THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING BALANCE, USSR WOULD INSIST ON CUBA AS A BALANCE TO AUSTRALIA. FISHER REPLIED AUSTRALIA SEEMED A VIABLE CANDIDATE, BUT NOT IF TIED IN WITH UNACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES.

5. GARCIA ROBLES ASKED FISHER TO REQUEST WASHINGTON TO AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT ON EIGHT NEW MEMBERS. FISHER REPLIED WOULD REPORT CONVERSATION, BUT DOUBTED ANY CHANGE IN US POSITION AT PRESENT TIME. FISHER ALSO GAVE PERSONAL VIEW THAT WHILE THERE MIGHT BE INSTRUCTIONS ON SOME MEMBERS, THE FINAL PROBLEM WOULD NOT BE SETTLED UNTIL LATE IN THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 18. GARCIA ROBLES REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO BE AT THE UN AT THAT TIME.

6. IN AN APPARENT PARENTHETICAL OBSERVATION TO HIS SUGGESTION WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA, GARCIA ROBLES POINTED OUT THAT HE HOPED PEOPLE TALKING TO VENEZUELA ABOUT ITS CANDI-

DACY WOULD CONDITION IT UPON VENEZUELA'S DROPPING ITS OBJECTION TO GUYANA'S ACCESSION TO TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. FISHER STATED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THIS POSITION WAS UNREALISTIC BUT DOUBTED THAT, IF CONSENSUS ON VENEZUELA WAS DEVELOPING, ANY US OFFICIAL WOULD MAKE THIS A PRECONDITION, SINCE IT APPEARED TO BE AN INTERNAL LATIN AMERICAN MATTER. 7. FISHER ALSO ATTENDED LUNCHEON MEETING AUGUST 22 WITH HESSEL (FRANCE) AND ASHE (UK) HOSTED BY LATTER. HESSEL STATED VIEW THAT SINCE PARIS HAS NOT MADE FINAL DECISION RE PARTICIPATION IN CD, FRENCH COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERSHIP, PARTICULARLY IN QUAD-RIPARTITE GROUP IN PARIS, SINCE COULD IMPLY A DECISION ON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 12791

FRENCH PARTICIPATION. HESSEL INDICATED HE PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE THE ISSUE WAS IN SERIOUS DOUBT, IF HANDLED PROPERLY, BUT FELT THAT ACTIONS WHICH GAVE PREMATURE INDICATION OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION MIGHT PREJUDICE IT. IN ANSWER TO ASHE QUESTION AS TO HOW THE FRENCH COULD PROTECT THEIR OWN INTERESTS WITH RESPECT TO NATURE OF MEMBERSHIP IN CD, HESSEL REPLIED THAT FRENCH HAD SUFFICIENT TRUST IN US/UK PROTECTING NATO INTERESTS, SO HE BELIEVED THAT, ON BALANCE, FRENCH NON-ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AT THIS STAGE WAS ADVANTAGEOUS.

8. HESSEL LATER HEDGED SOMEWHAT BY INDICATING THAT A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS NOT HELD IN PARIS AND CON-

TAINED MORE THAN THE FOUR POWERS, MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHERE SUCH A CONFERENCE MIGHT BE. WHEN ASHE INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF BELGRADE, HESSEL NON-COMMITTAL.

9. ASHE TURNED CONVERSATION TO POTENTIAL MEMBERS. QUESTION
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OF CUBA CAME UP AND FISHER GAVE STANDARD REPLY. ALTHOUGH HESSEL STATED FRENCH INTEREST BASED ON CONSULTATION WITH REGIONAL GROUPS WITH RESPECT TO LATIN AMERICA, HE INDICATED, AFTER FISHER HAD BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE THE LUNCHEON TO MEET CODEL, THAT, IN THE CASE OF LATIN AMERICA, BELIEVED SELECTION SHOULD BE BASED ON REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS, NOT NECESSARILY BASED ON REGIONAL GROUPS, AND INDICATED THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO CUBA.

10. COMMENT: CLEAR THAT IF US WISHES TO AVOID LAST MINUTE CRISIS BASED ON ISSUE OF CUBA WILL HAVE TO UNDERTAKE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN MANY CAPITALS. SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT US PREFERS VENEZUELA TO CUBA WILL NOT SUFFICE ANY LONGER. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, MEMBERSHIP, COMMITTEES, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA12791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780343-0469
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780839/aaaabfys.tel
Line Count: 196
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f82635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 12478, 78 GENEVA 12572
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1664771
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT: MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: PARM, PORG, CCD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f82635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014